


## MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTONCONFIDENTIAL  
INFORMATION

November 27, 1970

## MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: Marshall Wright 

SUBJECT: Eritrean Insurgency and Americans at Kagnaw Station

There has been a quite sharp increase in the past several weeks in the activity of the Eritrean Liberation Front, a Muslim insurgent group which is seeking to "free" Eritrea from Ethiopian rule. (The ELF gets its equipment and training from militant Arab states, primarily South Yemen and Sudan. The Chinese Communists are also believed to be suppliers to the ELF.) A few days ago the ELF successfully ambushed an Ethiopian army convoy and killed an Ethiopian major general. Martial law is expected to follow.

Our Kagnaw Station is smack in the middle of Eritrea. Although the ELF has never, in the past, attacked our installation or any of our personnel, we have never really understood why they have held their hand. In any event, the new level of activity raises anew the possibility of troubles for us.

I don't want to be caught unprepared on this, and am therefore reviewing with the relevant agencies what our plans and capabilities are.

OSD Review Completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY